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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of :
Caroline Dean, et al. :
Serial No. Not yet assigned :
(PCT/GB00/00248) :
Int. App. filed 01/28/00 :
For: METHODS AND MEANS FOR :
MODIFICATION OF PLANT :
CHARACTERISTICS USING THE :
VERNALIZATION GENE VRN2 :
:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the specification:

At page 1, line 3, please insert the following priority claim:

A1 - The present application is the U.S. National Phase of PCT/GB00/00248 filed January 28, 2000 which claims priority to GB 9901927.5 filed January 28, 1999 under 35 U.S.C. §119(e), the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein. -

In the claims:

A2 3. (Amended) A nucleic acid according to claim 1 which comprises a VRN2 nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID No. 2.

A3 5. (Amended) A nucleic acid according to claim 1 which comprises a VRN2 nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID No. 5.

A4 7. (Amended) A nucleic acid according to claim 1 which comprises a VRN2 nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID No. 8.